

The AMERICAN LEGION *Weekly*

The American Language

WHEN the United States starts its Americanization school for foreigners why not inform these aliens that they are about to be taught the American language? Why not drop a stale tradition, throw polemics overboard, refute the straight-laced sticklers for grammatical precedent and announce to the world that there is a new language?

We will not argue the hair-splitting details. We will merely base our claim on accepted words coined in America, to differences in accent and usage and to the fact that we can do as we please anyway in choosing a designation for the language we speak. Why, even in Mexico they do not stand for calling their language the Spanish language. They insist it is the Mexican language. Even at the expense of having a few score learned professors die of despair why not quit press-agenting John Bull and have our own language—the American language.

-Early, 1920-